

Of all this wondrous world we see ;
Its glow by day, its smile by night,
Are but reflections caught from Thee.
Where'er we turn Thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are Thine."

The element of beauty is so constantly in evidence in the domain of nature that God surely must have a strong love for the beautiful. The philosophical author of Ecclesiastes broke away from his pre-Schopenhauer pessimism long enough to say of God and his works, "He hath made everything beautiful in its time." Let us glance at this truth, as seen here and there in the material creation.

The wonderfully varied landscapes of the world testify that God is a lover of beauty. The earth could produce more wheat and corn if there were a greater area of well-watered plains and less stacked-up land and rocks and level brine ; but God has given us hills and mountains and lakes and seas because man does not live by bread alone, but by every beautiful thing that comes from the hand of God. His soul often experiences greater delight when gazing at a rugged mountain or a foaming waterfall than when looking across fertile fields which promise an abundant yield of wheat or corn.

The Mission Field

Washington City Echoes

The "revival" spirit continues with us and we are happy in the Lord; two more received by baptism last Sunday and another by relation from the German Baptist's; ten accessions within fifteen days seems quite encouraging in a little mission like ours, especially when we consider the fact that we have held no "protracted" services; simply our Sunday meetings and our Thursday night cottage prayer service. Another applicant awaiting baptism. Surely "it is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes."

From present indications it would seem that we will double our membership during the first month of the year 1900. Nearly all are heads of families.

Last week I told you of a church property for sale in this part of the city, and I remarked that I was afraid we had forfeited another grand opportunity. Since then I have learned that we still have a chance to place a bid. Now if we could but realize something of the revival spirit thru-out the brotherhood in the matter of giving toward this very desirable end, what a wonderful work might soon be accomplished in this city! This church property is nicely located, is in good condition, frame building covered with corrugated iron, and can be bought for \$5900. The lot itself is worth \$4000. We could not buy the same lot and put the same improvements on it for less than \$10,000. Now I believe if it is best for us to have this, the Lord will open the way somehow. With what we already have in the treasury and the amount pledged, if redeemed, we would have on hand about \$1000. Then what an easy matter it ought to be to

double that amount, yes, the brotherhood could even quadruple it, and not "half try." We could pay the balance in monthly payments, if necessary, tho I am not fond of church debts. Perhaps some good brother or sister who reads this will be led to make an investment in this way in the capital city, make it in the name of Jesus and thus memorialize their name forever. There are those who could do it. What an opportunity to lay up riches in heaven!

As I have penned these lines the thought has come, "Who knows but that we may have our own church home within the first month of the year 1900?"

"Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass."

Have much more I would like to say, but do not have the time, and do not wish to take further space.

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Chicago Mission

Thinking our dear readers might like to hear about the *good* we have been enabled to bring to some needy and suffering ones, I will mention it. Look in last week's letter from Brother Talley, and you will see what places and who sent clothing and some provisions; all of which was very acceptable and has all been given out except a few pieces of clothing.

Ten families have received, several of those have been suffering a great deal, trouble, sickness and sin are the chief causes. Brother and Sister Talley are out now carrying some things to comfort and bless a lady, three little ones and an old mother. This woman is left alone with two little girls and a baby nine months old, also an aged mother who is suffering from *lumbago*. The lady herself has poor health and suffers from hemorrhages. Pray for them. Another family; husband out of work, four children. God alone knows how all these poor people live. This mother is a member of the mission. Pray for the father, he is almost persuaded, but will not yield himself. They received what comforts we could give them with heart felt thanks. By the help, kindness and love of all those who sent those things to us, we have brought cheer and comfort to the first family mentioned and quite a few others, all have been very grateful for every thing they received. Some are trusting God and others are not. We trust and pray that they too may see it is by God's hand that they received all they have.

You remember I spoke of a lady sometime ago that knew what she must do to be saved but something kept her back. Praise the Lord she gave herself to Him and is now happy in His love. Her husband is in Manila. Pray for him for he is out of Christ.

Our meetings are good tho the attendance is small. Weather is very bad, rain and mud. Some, sickness hinders their getting out.

Another word; the comforts that was sent in for those who needed, are doing good service now, and were so thankfully received,

We have had several calls for corn meal but we have received none this winter, but we shall be very grateful if some loved ones could send us some that we might give to those who so much need it.

We feel your prayers and appreciate them. May God's blessing rest upon you all.

MRS. SADIE GIBBONS,
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The Sunday School

LESSON 5—FEBRUARY 4, 1900

"The First Disciples of Jesus"

Golden Text.—They followed Jesus.—John 1:17.

Lesson Thought.—When we have found Jesus we should bring others to him also.

Time.—Directly after the temptation in the wilderness, two days in February A. D. 27.

Place.—Bethabara, or Bethany as in the best texts, but not the one on the Mount of Olives.

Persons.—Jesus now 30 years old. John the Baptist thirty and one half years old, having preached six or eight months in the wilderness.

Home Readings

Read John 1:19-51; Luke 9:57-62; Mark 1:14-20; Luke 14:25-33; Matthew 19:23-30; II Tim. 4:1-8.

Lesson Text

35 Again on the morrow John was standing, and two of his disciples;

36 And he looked upon Jesus as he walked, and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 And Jesus turned and beheld them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? And they said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where abidest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and ye shall see. They came therefore and saw where he abode; and they abode with him that day: it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two that heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He findeth first his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah (which is being interpreted Christ.)

42 He brought him unto Jesus. Jesus looked upon him, and said, Thou art Simon the son of John: thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter.)

43 On the morrow he was minded to go forth into Galilee, and he findeth Philip, and Jesus saith unto him, Follow me.

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

Introduction

In the last lesson we studied about those two mysterious yet significant events in the life of Jesus, the baptism and the temptation. In these he was prepared for his great work. Up to this time he had been silent. The only words which we have of his breaking the silence of those 18 years are those at his baptism, "Suffer it to be so now? for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness," and his words to satan in the wilder-